

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: October 14, 2004

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:53 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Lonnell Conley, Chairman
Jim Bradford
Scott Keller
Mike Speedy
Dane Mahern
Mary Moriarty Adams
Angela Mansfield

Absent Members

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 558, 2004 authorizes intersection controls for Brookside Avenue and Steele Street (District 16)

“Do Pass” (FAILED) Vote: 3-4

PROPOSAL NO. 559, 2004 authorizes intersection controls for Westover Drive and 80th Street (District 1)

“Postponed until next meeting” Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 588, 2004 approves an increase of \$10,000 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Policy and Planning Division (Solid Waste Collection Fund), to fund the collection, recycling, and proper disposal of computer equipment, financed by a private grant from Dell, Inc.

“Do Pass” Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 589, 2004 approves an increase of \$100,000 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Policy and Planning Division (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Fund), to retrofit 37 diesel-powered packer trucks and approximately eight off-road vehicles with diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC), financed by a grant from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency

“Do Pass” Vote: 5-1

PROPOSAL NO. 590, 2004 approves a transfer of \$375,000 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Transportation General Fund) to cover increased overtime caused by weather events, and payroll costs associated with a 27th bi-weekly pay period, and reduces the budget by \$620,850 in order to increase the fund balances of the Consolidated County, Parking Meter and Sanitation Liquid Waste Funds
“Do Pass” Vote: 5-1

PROPOSAL NO. 591, 2004 approves transfers to pay increased overtime, the 27th pay period for bi-weekly employees, and trash collection contracts costs for the Department of Public Works (Operations Division) funded by a transfer between characters within the Solid Waste Collection Fund
“Do Pass” Vote: 4-2

PROPOSAL NO. 592, 2004 authorizes a one-way eastbound traffic restriction for Merrill Street from East Street to Virginia Avenue (District 19)
“Do Pass” Vote: 6-0

Combined Sewer Overflow/Long-Term Control Plan Update - Jim Garrard, DPW Director and Jodi Perras, Deputy Program Manager, Indianapolis Clean Stream Team

Sewer Connection Update - Jim Garrard, DPW Director and Tom Neltner, Improving Kids' Environment

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, October 14, 2004. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., with the following members present: Scott Keller, Dane Mahern, Mary Moriarty Adams, Angela Mansfield, Jim Bradford and Mike Speedy.

Combined Sewer Overflow/Long-Term Control Plan Update - Jim Garrard, DPW Director and Jodi Perras, Deputy Program Manager, Indianapolis Clean Stream Team

Jim Garrard, Director of Public Works, and Jodi Perras, Clean Stream Team, gave a presentation on Combined Sewer Overflow/Long-Term Control Plan Update.

[Clerks note: A copy of the presentation is filed with the original set of minutes in the Council office]

Mr. Garrard stated that DPW is looking at a solution for a long term control plan that will allow DPW to address the combined sewer overflow problem. He stated that DPW is at a point where there is a need for public outreach. There will be public meetings, starting as early as October 07, 2004, to advise the public and make them aware of the problems. Jodi Perras stated that there are several mechanisms to send and receive information from the public. There are the newsletters, web sites, and the meetings. She stated that the "Improving Indianapolis Rivers and Streams" (Exhibit A) presentation would show a brief overview of the problems, what the potential solutions are, and how to get involved.

[Clerks note: Exhibit A can be found in the Council on file with the original set of minutes.]

Key points are:

- Overflows occur when rainfall or melting snow overwhelms the capacity in the sewers.
- One-quarter inch of rain can cause sewers to overflow into the streams.
- There are 105 communities with raw sewage overflows in Indiana and 772 communities nationwide.

In the city of Indianapolis, raw sewage overflows affect our quality of life and economic development. On average, 7.87 billion gallons overflow into the streams each year. These improvements when complete, will remove approximately 4 billion gallons of overflows from our waterways in an average year.

Ms. Perras stated that the City of Indianapolis will need to address other water quality problems by implementing projects to reduce flooding and improve storm water drainage, restoring stream banks and removing polluted sediments from streams, and disconnecting downspouts, sump pumps and other illegal connections that take up sewer capacity.

Chairman Conley asked if the Public would receive the newsletter. Ms. Perras stated that there is a mailing list of about 1500 people that receive the newsletter. All 200,000 sewer users could go to the web site to get this same information.

Councillor Bradford asked if this was the storm water bill. Mr. Garrard answered in the negative and explained that this was the sewer bill.

PROPOSAL NO. 558, 2004 authorizes intersection controls for Brookside Avenue and Steele Street (District 16)

Councillor Keller thanked all who came out to the site to do observation on Brookside Avenue. Mr. Keller explained that the neighborhood is requesting a 4 way stop sign on Brookside Avenue and Steele Street. He said that traffic goes from west to east very fast on Brookside Avenue and because of the angle with Steele Street, there have been many accidents. Councillor Keller stated that if you eliminate parking 30 feet on the south side of Brookside Avenue, there is a better sight line; however, you would still have to pull out into the intersection to see the oncoming traffic going from west to east on Brookside.

Councillor Mansfield asked if anyone has contacted the school about the situation. Councillor Keller answered in the affirmative and said the only alternative would be to move a stop sign south one block but there is more traffic in this area.

Chairman Conley asked if there was a petition passed around. Councillor Keller answered in the negative.

Councillor Moriarty Adams asked if the city recommended moving parking back 30 feet on Brookside Avenue. Nathan Sheets, Project Engineer for Department of Public Works, answered in the affirmative. Councillor Moriarty Adams stated that she is opposed to the four way stop sign and will vote against this proposal.

Councillor Mansfield said that because the city is moving the parking back 30 feet, she would like to see if this helps the problem.

Councillor Mahern stated that the problem is a speed issue and maybe the community should contact the Indianapolis Police Department regarding speeding in this area.

Councillor Bradford moved, seconded by Councillor Speedy, to send Proposal No. 558 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" Recommendation. This motion failed by a vote of 3-4 with Chairman Conley, Councillors Mahern, Mansfield, and Moriarty Adams casting the negative votes.

PROPOSAL NO. 559, 2004 authorizes intersection controls for Westover Drive and 80th Street (District 1)

Councillor Bradford moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to postpone Proposal No. 559 until the next committee meeting. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

[Clerks note: Councillor Mansfield left at 5:52 p.m.]

PROPOSAL NO. 588, 2004 approves an increase of \$10,000 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Policy and Planning Division (Solid Waste Collection Fund), to fund the collection, recycling, and proper disposal of computer equipment, financed by a private grant from Dell, Inc.

Michael Williams, Chief Financial Officer of DPW, stated that Proposal No. 588, 2004 is for a \$10,000 grant from Dell Inc. to fund the recycling and the proper disposal of computer equipment. Mr. Williams stated that during the Earth Day celebration this past year, DPW collected 39,000 pounds of computer equipment. This grant will provide an opportunity for people to dispose of that equipment. Part of the reason DPW was selected by Dell was the ability to do these types of programs.

Councillor Bradford asked if the computers that are purchased for the city are from Dell. Mr. Williams answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Speedy asked where the pick up locations will be. John Chavez, DPW Administrator for the Office of Environmental Service, stated that this is a one time event because of the \$10,000 amount. The event will be held in conjunction with America Recycle Day, which is on November 13, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sullivan Hardware is sponsoring this event and they have allowed the city to use their location to hold the event on 71st Street and Binford Blvd. Councillor Speedy asked about the condition of the equipment being recycled. Mr. Chavez said that it does not matter. He stated that Virtual Scavengers will reuse the items that are reusable. The rest will be given to End of Life Recycling.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Bradford, to send Proposal No. 588 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" Recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 589, 2004 approves an increase of \$100,000 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Policy and Planning Division (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Fund), to retrofit 37 diesel-powered packer trucks and approximately eight off-road vehicles with diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC), financed by a grant from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Williams said that this is a \$100,000 grant to fund the retrofitting of 37 packer trucks and a few off-road vehicles. He stated that this process is similar to putting a catalytic converter on a car, and this grant will pay for the purchase and the installation. The result is to reduce the emission from these vehicles. There is also a portion of this grant that will pay for outreach to the community.

Councillor Bradford asked if the vehicles would require more maintenance once these converters were installed. Mr. Chavez stated that there is no anticipated additional cost or maintenance needed. Councillor Bradford stated the he will not vote for this proposal, because it seems like another way for the Federal Government to throw away money.

Councillor Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to send Proposal No. 589 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" Recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 5-1 with Councillor Bradford casting the negative vote.

PROPOSAL NO. 590, 2004 approves a transfer of \$375,000 in the 2004 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Transportation General Fund) to cover increased overtime caused by weather events, and payroll costs associated with a 27th bi-weekly pay period, and reduces the budget by \$620,850 in order to increase the fund balances of the Consolidated County, Parking Meter and Sanitation Liquid Waste Funds

Jeff Seidenstein, Deputy Controller, stated that Proposal Nos. 590 and 591, 2004 should be heard together for the purpose of discussion. The committee gave consent. Mr. Seidenstein said that the reason for the city reducing it's budget relates back to the news that the tax levy was not going to be as great as it was expected to be due to changes in reassessments and other things at the state level. The impact on the city is that there was a loss of \$5 million of tax levy, so there was a need to make some quick adjustments to the budget. Mr. Seidenstein explained the summary worksheet plan (Exhibit B). He said that in these two proposals the budget was reduced by \$620,850.

[Clerks note: Exhibit B is on file in the Council office with the original set of minutes]

Councillor Bradford asked if this proposal would cut \$300,000 in trash collection receptacles. Mr. Siedenstein answered in the affirmative. Councillor Bradford said that he will not support this proposal considering his district has been asking for trash cans for five years and still has not receive any.

Councillor Mahern asked if these cuts would affect the abandoned vehicle program. Pat Carroll, Operations Division of DPW, answered in the negative.

Councillor Speedy asked if the renegotiation in trash collection contracts resulted in a \$200,000 increase. Mr. Carroll answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Moriarty Adams asked who purchased the trashcans. Mr. Garrard stated that the city pays for the purchase of trashcans.

Chairman Conley stated that hopefully in the near future DPW would be able to get some trashcans in Councillor Bradford's district.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Keller, to send Proposal No. 590 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" Recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 5-1 with Councillor Bradford casting the negative vote.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 591 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" Recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 4-2 with Councillor Bradford and Councillor Speedy casting the negative votes.

PROPOSAL NO. 592, 2004 authorizes a one-way eastbound traffic restriction for Merrill Street from East Street to Virginia Avenue (District 19)

Mr. Sheets stated that this proposal is for a change in parking restrictions and also designating Merrill Street one-way east bound between Virginia Avenue and East Street.

Councillor Mahern stated that Merrill Street has passed all the safety requirements to change it into a one-way street.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Speedy, to send Proposal No. 592 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" Recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0

[Clerks note: Councillor Keller left at 6:25 p. m.]

Sewer Connection Update - Jim Garrard, DPW Director and Tom Neltner, Improving Kids' Environment

Tom Neltner stated that the goal is to make sure that they institutionalize a consideration of the long term impacts of sewer connection, so that they do not get back into the position that would allow new connections without considering the impact on the overflows.

[Clerks note: Councillor Speedy left at 6:49 p. m.]

Mr. Neltner explained the proposed changes to Indianapolis Municipal Code regarding sewer construction permits and illegal sewer connections. (Exhibit C)

[Clerks note: Exhibit C is on file in the Council office with the original set of minutes.]

Some key points are:

- While the Department does not support or advocate the passage of an ordinance, it would not oppose an ordinance that provides general factors for determining the appropriateness of sewer separation in the combined sewer area.
- While the Department does not support or advocate the passage of an ordinance, it would not oppose an ordinance that provides general factors to consider for sewer connections needed for new developments.
- The city and stakeholders agree that a financial incentive should be developed to encourage and require homeowners to disconnect clear water from the sewer system. However, DPW also agrees the city's public education program needs to be established first.

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Works Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lonnell Conley, Chairman
Public Works Committee

LC/rp